

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 24 No 1

February 2012

Reg. A0017409G

Happy 90th Birthday Peggy

From all your friends at U3A Castlemaine



A large crowd gathered at the Castlemaine Art Gallery on Saturday, 14th January, 2012 to help Peggy Shaw celebrate her 90th birthday and launch the historic exhibition of her lovely water colours as well as some tonal pencil sketches.

The Rev. Ken Parker opened the exhibition, after which Peter Perry, Director of the Castlemaine Art Gallery, spoke of the vast amount of works which Peggy had painted during her life time. Peter Cuffley then spoke at length of one of his own books, 'Garden in a Valley' for which Peggy had contributed no less than sixteen water colours and sketches. He spoke of the beautiful gardens that Peggy had created in Castlemaine and how her love of flowers is brought to life through her paintings. Peggy worked with John Turner (Sue Turner's father) in the 1980s.

At a young age of only seventeen, Peggy had her first artwork exhibited in the Hobart Art Gallery – quite an achievement! Reading through Peggy's biography one cannot but be impressed by the sheer number of works she has done in her painting life. She is indeed a remarkable and gifted lady. Peggy is one of our pioneer members having joined U3A in 1994 and many of us have purchased and enjoyed her work. Congratulations Peggy. We look forward to more.

Text and photographs from Valorie Anderson

U3A Castlemaine's information Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

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U3A OFFICE DETAILS

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Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Office Hours are:

Monday to Thursday 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Phone: 5472 2249

Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

Current 2012 Subscription Fee

\$40.00 + \$10.00 for mailing of newsletter if required.

Members joining after June 30 pay 50% of the
subscription fee.

**PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE
OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR
CONTACT DETAILS**

Friday Coffee Morning Roster

3rd February 2012: Theatre Film Group

2nd March: TBA

Coffee Mornings are held on the first
Friday in the month at 10.00 am
in the Uniting Church Hall

Committee Meetings

are held on the third
Thursday in the month at 9.30 am
in the Kindergarten Room,
at the Uniting Church Complex.

From the President

Our Christmas break-up is a distant memory now, but before looking to 2012 I must thank a new member (name unknown to the Committee but I am sure you will recognise your action) who chained herself to the sink and washed truckloads of crockery and cutlery. You are a treasure and if you are at our February coffee morning, please introduce yourself - I promise no more dishes for a while!

Also I must report the success of our Christmas appeal. Over \$400 was donated to the Uniting Church for distribution to local people. Thank you for your generosity.

Our January enrolment days were a great success. I had a real sense of excited anticipation when setting up the room and I know other volunteers did as well. And wasn't there a buzz when all our members came in to re-enrol (though I suspect really to meet up with old friends). But the incredible thing was the number of new members – a staggering 60+. Welcome to you all, and advance notice that we will be looking to harness your enthusiasm and skills in the coming months and years.

The success of the two enrolment days was due in good measure to the organisational skills of Sue Turner and Robyn Yeoman who had the Committee volunteers and the membership enrolment and class registration tables operating faultlessly.

Thanks are also due to Sue for organising many member renewals in December. This innovation which I hope becomes standard practice in future took some of the pressure off the enrolment days and helped our cash flow immensely at a time when traditionally we have no income but lots of bills. A big thank you also to those members who answered the call and enrolled early.

In recognition that our February coffee morning is unique - because so many members look forward to catching up with old friends, and because we have so many new members - we are not having a guest speaker but devoting the morning to chat once all the formalities are completed. I hope you all intend to come.

Your Committee will be considering some special events during the year but these are still in the planning stage so I will keep you in suspense! I am looking forward to another great year of learning and friendship. I hope you are too.

INSURANCE

A common question is: *Does U3A insure me if I suffer an injury during a U3A class or activity?*

U3A Castlemaine does not have personal accident insurance for members. In most circumstances any medical expenses would be covered by Medicare or by any private medical insurance you may have.

U3A Castlemaine, like other Victorian U3As, does have public liability insurance provided free of charge by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA). This insurance may provide cover if you are injured during a U3A Castlemaine class or activity **IF** U3A Castlemaine is legally liable i.e. negligent.

One reason we ask you to sign attendance sheets is to prove you were at a class or activity should a claim arise at a later date.

The VMIA policy does not operate when classes or activities are held in private homes so it is important that home owners/renters hosting classes and activities have their own public liability cover. The situation is slightly different for volunteers. Personal accident cover is provided by the VMIA policy if they are injured during an activity or class they are organising but not in other circumstances. For example last year I was class leader for "Dabbling in History" and was covered by the policy during that class but was not covered when I attended other classes such as Play Reading or the Cold War.

~ Peter Stephens

Deadline for the March 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 20th February

From the Course Co-ordinator

Enrolment Days seemed to go without too many hitches, and Robyn and Dick are now processing the 300+ enrolment forms. This is a time-consuming task but we hope it will be completed well before the end of January. A number of changes had to be made to the Prospectus information, and these were listed in a Supplementary Information sheet. The changes involved:

- The addition of two courses – Lifeball and Solo Group. If you wish to enrol in these courses, phone or email Dick.
- The cancellation of Energy Efficient and Sustainable Homes course.
- Changes to times or venues for the following courses: Twentieth Century Literature, French I & II, French Conversation, Italian I, Mindfulness for Wellbeing, and Ballet Appreciation. If you have enrolled in any of these courses, check with your course leader for the changes.
- Uncertainty about the future of the Apple Mac Computer Help course, due to Bruce Carruther's illness. Contact Mike Smith 5470 6638 or email mirue@tpg.com.au for further information.

Solo Whist was also left out of the Prospectus and the supplementary Information. For details of this course, see below.

Solo Whist All year

Course leader	Peggy Munro - 5472 2086
Course outline	This card game is challenging and fun. We play for real money – one and two cent coins donated by Warwick! Beginners are welcome
Entry criteria	None.
Meeting time	1.30 pm to 3.30 pm each first, third and fifth Thursday in month, commencing 16 February.
Venue	To be advised.

Course Leaders' Information Session

This will be held at 'Buda', Hunter Street, Castlemaine, on Wednesday 1 February, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

At this session, class lists will be distributed, and information will be provided about attendance sheets, booking equipment, obtaining keys, photocopying, reimbursing costs, use of the website, etc. Last minute changes to venues or class times will be provided.

It is essential that all new course leaders attend, and highly desirable that returning leaders attend to obtain class lists and hear of any changes. If you haven't already done so, please email u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com or phone 0411 244 103, confirming your attendance at this important event.

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Only a kind person is able to judge another justly and to make allowances for his/her weaknesses. A kind eye, while recognising defects, sees beyond them. Anon

From Your Editor

Welcome everyone to a new U3A year, and the Chinese New Year of the Water Dragon. I hope you all enjoyed a pleasant break over the Christmas and New Year period and are now eagerly looking forward to getting stuck into one (or more) of those 80+ courses that are on offer, outlined in the 2012 Prospectus. What a choice! And how wonderful is it that we have so many willing volunteers to bring all these courses to us? We are so lucky.

By now most of you will have seen in the local papers the lovely photograph of our own Peggy Shaw with her beaming smile, at Castlemaine's Art Gallery for the promotion of her Perspective and celebration of her 90th birthday, surrounded by her many friends, family and fellow artists. Well done Peggy on reaching that special birthday and for sharing your beautiful and exceptional talent with so many of us who enjoy your works of art. Peggy's art works are on display in the gallery until February 26th so take your friends and visitors out to enjoy this special event.

The first five years of Castlemaine's U3A history is almost ready to be launched and Valorie and her team have done a mighty job getting that together. It's a quality product with much for you to read and remember, and will hopefully be available at the March Coffee Morning.

Unfortunately we lost some of our members just in the latter months of last year. Remember Caesar-Gordon, and Alan Robinson, yes and Patsy Thompson too. Many years of experience, talent and friendship gone with their passing. A sad loss to our U3A society.

Over the two Registration Days we received 60+ new members. Amazing! They will be warmly welcomed in their various courses of choice and who knows? Possibly/hopefully we in turn will have a boost to our pool of talented volunteers.

Well, as I began this article with thoughts of the New Year, it reminded me that now I am on the downward side of the hill as far as my editorship is concerned. So I think it only fair to warn you that soon I will be on the look-out for an understudy to take over when October comes around. Put your hand up if you think you'd like to be editor of "Third Thoughts" to take us into 2013. Oh, and Happy Australia Day too. Cheers. BarB.

~ ~ O ~ ~

COFFEE MORNING ROSTERS – A TRIAL

It is clear that the practice of placing class groups on duty is no longer efficient. As a trial we shall run the Coffee Morning Roster on a volunteer basis. The volunteers would not be expected to set up the Hall, they would be involved only in the setting up the kitchen, the serving of tea and coffee, the clearing away and the provision of a plate of finger food.

A roster sheet for the months March to June will be placed on the Notice board and members are encouraged to volunteer for this duty by signing their names in the appropriate places.

Duties: Setting up the kitchen – hot water, cups and saucers, tea, coffee, milk and sugar.

Serving Morning Tea: Clearing away, washing/drying up, emptying urns and returning articles to cupboards.

Providing a plate of finger food sufficient for six people.

Seven names will be placed on a list each month from the yellow volunteer sheets that were filled out, with two emergency fill-in names, and if for some reason you are unable to come on the day, please ring one of the emergencies.

A TRIBUTE TO PATSY THOMPSON – She was an early member of Castlemaine U3A, and for several years. Being interested in painting and craft work she joined the Art & Craft Group and kindly allowed the group to meet at the old Trades Hall, which she owned. The group also held several specialty exhibitions in the hall at Festival times or Seniors Week. Patsy had been unwell for many months and died in November 2011.

~ Brenda Envall

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

For members of the class planning to re-join this year and for those people wishing to join Aboriginal History for the first time, our first session for the year will be on **February 7th** with a trip to Melbourne to see the special exhibition, "Tjukurrjtjanu", a guided tour, at the Ian Potter Gallery at Federation Square. The presentation of this exhibition represents a huge collaborative effort over 4 years to assemble works from across Australia and internationally, of the first paintings to be produced at Papunya in 1971 and 1972, which in effect were the beginnings of the modern Aboriginal Art Movement. The tour will commence at **1.30pm** which means we can have a leisurely trip to Melbourne on the train.

February 21st - "Mr. Patterns" tells the remarkable story of the young art teacher, Geoffrey Bardon, who arrived in the Central Australian settlement of Papunya in the early '70's, brimful with excitement and enthusiasm, to teach art to Aboriginal children, little knowing that this adventure of his would ultimately change the lives of countless Aboriginal people into the future.

APPLE MAC – COMPUTER HELP

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Please contact Mike Smith for details of this course on 5470 6638 or e-mail him on mirue@tpg.com.au

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

Welcome to everybody joining the Australian History group this year. The February gatherings this year will be at my home in Lyttleton Street, commencing at **2.00pm, on Monday 13th and Monday 27th**. Please ring for directions if you are new to this course.

The suggestion has been made that for the first part of 2012 we look at the history of some of the prominent buildings in Castlemaine, and we shall begin the programme at our first gathering.

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Beryl Leavesley, Vice President

Dick Mack, Course Co-Coordinator,

Jenny Craig, Publicity Officer

and Robyn Yeoman, Course Administrator

### Some of our new Committee Members

Kit Morris, Treasurer



## *A Tribute to Alan Robinson*

Born in Canterbury Melbourne in 1926 Alan first started school at Mangarra Road primary before attending Scotch College to year eleven, then Swinburn Technical College, where he attained the Diploma of Electrical Engineering and Diploma of Mechanical Engineering, and at age 18, at the end of 1944, he enlisted in the RAAF where he trained as a Wireless Air Gunner. Luckily for Alan the war ended just as he was ready to be posted. Part of his training took place on the Melbourne Show Ground.

Alan and Barbara married at the Scotch College Chapel in 1952 while he was working for the PMG, very soon being promoted to Group Organizer, and while there was in charge of the team setting up the national phone systems and telecommunications for the 1956 Olympic Games. With a 'free pass' and 24 hour access to the Games sites, Alan discovered a lot of 'friends' during this time.

From that job Alan then moved on to working for the Bureau of Meteorology until his retirement. Never a man of robust health Alan was advised that Melbourne was not good for him. So he and Barbara bought some acres up here in Lighthorse Road with the idea for starting some sort of farming, and their new project became Pig Farming. What a challenge! But again due to ill health, that soon became too onerous for them and they gave it away. That's when he found U3A.

He loved being part of the Australian History Group, yet was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the computers in the Octopus after the volunteer Information Centre moved to bigger premises, passing on his knowledge to all and any who wanted to be part of this new technology. After the initial set-up was underway, and leaving the teaching to others, Alan continued with his computer skills from home, creating the Family History Course and setting up and maintaining our first website, adding information about our U3A and Castlemaine in general, but was always happy to help others with their IT problems.

Ham radio was one of his many hobbies too, connecting with like-minded friends all round the world. In fact his system was for a short time the only communication between Australia and Mexico after a big earthquake hit that country. For that he was granted a medal from the Wireless Institute.

But all of these things were nothing to Alan. A very private man, a quiet achiever with an unexpected sense of quirky humour, whose greatest delight was his family and the love and respect he found at home, with added delight at becoming a great-grandfather when young Jonty Alan came into their lives. A good life Alan, well lived. Our U3A will miss you. Vale.

*From information supplied by Barbara Robinson*

*If a man keeps cherishing his old knowledge, so as continually to be acquiring new, he may be a teacher of others.*

*Confucius*

*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire - William Butler Yeats*

### **VALE ALAN**

Alan was the first person who contacted me on our arrival in Castlemaine in February 2002. After a fruitless search around the town for any evidence of a U3A I went to the trusty World Wide Web and sure enough, there it was – U3A Castlemaine. After sending them an e-mail a prompt reply came from Alan, who was very helpful in explaining about the Coffee Mornings and where classes met.

Being very new to the town and U3A, I decided at first to join a class about which I had some knowledge – computers. Alan was running a PC class at that time and was a fount of knowledge. Four months later he asked me if I would be their new secretary. This I accepted and Alan was extremely helpful and patient, guiding me through the mysteries of data bases, the Constitution and giving general advice.

U3A Castlemaine owes Alan a great debt of gratitude in getting the Octopus up and running.

*~ Valorie Anderson*

# BRIDGE

HANS VAN GEMERT 5472 1082

The Bridge Group decided to keep playing throughout the Christmas break except for the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year. On several occasions we have had 7 tables and on one occasion we had eight.

The Bendigo Bridge Club has agreed to assist our group in several ways. With the system of duplicate bridge all hands are pre-dealt and are rotated amongst all players and tables. This removes the element of chance in the game when arriving at a final overall performance score. The scoring and dealing have been fairly onerous duties for several of our members. The Bendigo Bridge Club has the computer-operated equipment to make these tasks easier. An extra advantage is that the computer analyses each hand it deals and predicts the contracts that are achievable. Each player receives a printout at the completion of the game to enable them to compare their actual bids with the best achievable.

Our group has in recent years become a feeder club for the Bendigo Bridge Club with quite a few members having decided to also join Bendigo and in turn a number of Bendigo players have joined us as visitors from time to time. Several have now joined us as members. As a result our overall standard of play has increased substantially.

It is well known that bridge keeps the mind active and alert. Our oldest member (and one of our best players) is about to celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

A revised and expanded training manual has been produced which will be used for the teaching of new players starting in February. Copies of this document will also be made available to existing players if requested



*Janet Fitzwater, Hans van Gemert, Ann Lodge, and Anne van Gemert*

*Marguerite Thyssen, Jane Buck, Tony Peachey and Peter Morris*



*Val Langdon, Trish Pilley, and David Peters*



*Val Anderson, George Gray, Jenny Craig, Rosalind Gray*

## FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

The first gathering for the group will be at **10.30am on Friday 17th February**, in one of the Sunday School rooms in the Uniting Church Hall in Lyttleton Street. The main task will be to do a bit of planning for the early part of the year. Suggestions will be most welcome. The activity to follow this brief meeting will be to move next door to the Art Gallery to have a good look at, and discussion about, the garden paintings in the Peggy Shaw collection which is now on display there.

## MOVIES OF MERIT

JOHN WALDIE 5472 5411/9417 7462

"Movies of Merit" has now established a core group of cinephiles who met every Monday at the Theatre Royal (courtesy of David Stretch, the Theatre Manager) for 21 sessions in 2011. We have learnt that the true value of the course is in the discussion period following the screening, with opinions varying from outright dislike to utter pleasure, and we are learning to distinguish between personal appreciation and technical merit. All attendees rated each film out of 10, and the aggregated ratings for all the films we have seen and appraised were as follows:

|                            |       |                                |       |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Au Revoir les Enfants      | 94%   | Spring, Summer, Autumn, Spring | 84.8% |
| Battleship Potemkin        | 81.8% | The Battle of Algiers          | 81.3% |
| Bicycle Thieves            | 81.3% | Mephisto                       | 81.3% |
| Brief Encounter            | 81.1% | Shower                         | 80.6% |
| The Road Home              | 78.9% | Welcome                        | 78.7% |
| Kes                        | 77.5% | My Life As A Dog               | 77.3% |
| The Death of Mr Lazarescue | 76.3% | It Happened One Night          | 75.7% |
| Brazil                     | 75.2% | The Dinner Game                | 71.5% |
| Double Indemnity           | 69.4% | Aquirre, the Wrath of God      | 67.2% |
| La Strada                  | 66.8% | Forbidden Games                | 65.6% |
| Le Million                 | 65.5% |                                |       |

By the time you are reading this in the February Newsletter we will have completed our January Holiday Program which ran for four sessions at the Theatre Royal, and was open to *all* current U3A Castlemaine members. At these sessions we saw some "masterpiece" films (with approval ratings in brackets): "**M**" (87%), "**Tokyo Story**" (84%), "**The General**" (94%)/"**Steamboat Bill Jnr**" (80%). Pretty much in line with the "experts"!

I understand that the bookings so far for this course in 2012 are very strong, so a waiting list is likely. I'll have more information on this at our next meeting.

## PHOTOGRAPHY / DIGITAL IMAGE

TREVOR WHEELER 5476 2286

Follow this link and click 'my photos' to see some of our pictures taken on excursions in 2011. <http://tinyurl.com/U3A-Photography> then \_ click **Gallery**

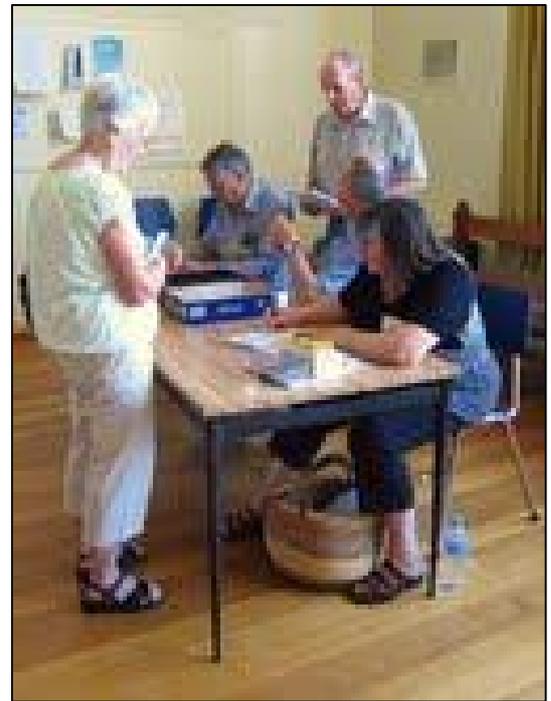
The first Photography group meeting for 2012 will be **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> of February** at the Octopus - **1.30 pm** Duke St. Castlemaine.

Bring your camera - **this session will be a photo excursion**, and we will be planning our year. Your suggestions are welcome.

# U3A Castlemaine

## Registration Days

January 17th and 18th



## Introducing our new Office Manager George Gray.

Don't make the mistake of surmising by his accent that he is a Brit. Oh no, no, no. George was born in Cairo during the war, lived in Scotland til the age of six, then moved from country to country gathering accents along the way, and back to Scotland where he attended university.

George's working background was in Finance, Treasury and Fund Management, part of which involved importing business systems and this high profile work took him, over time, to Britain, Canada, and Africa before arriving here in Australia, where his first job was with the Victorian Traffic Accident Commission. He imported business systems which were used by the whole public sector, including the very first one used by the TAC.



He and his wife Rosalind, son Stuart and daughter Sarah, decided to put down roots here in 1986, following in his parents' footsteps who had come to Australia, to Castlemaine, in 1966. Some of you may remember his father who was a Lawyer, a partner with Lovell Langslow in Barker Street, or maybe George's step-mother Eve, who was 2nd in charge up at Alexander Benevolent Home (now called Castlemaine Health). A straight talking, upright, strict but fair, nurse of the old school when I knew her.

After arriving here in Castlemaine in 2010 George quickly found his way to our U3A and we welcome him and Rosalind with open arms. Rosalind also joined our U3A as a Bridge player, and is a serious (George's word) Patch Worker.

George spent some time in Uganda in his younger days and played first class Rugby there. Even at one time against Idi Amin. Of course with time, injuries and wear and tear on the body from that rough sport began to slow him down, so now he contents himself with refereeing Rugby Union and Hockey. His other interests will be the management of our U3A office and I'm sure will very quickly have things running to his own methods with the help of volunteers. But he has a weird and wonderful sense of humour, so I'm sure things will rollick along under his guidance. And in his spare time he will be found playing Bridge, Tai Chi, or playing the bagpipes, as well as renovating their home.

And a great big ***Thank you***  
to you Judy Sime for all your  
good work and organisation  
as our esteemed  
past Office Manager.



## So you are thinking of buying a new computer in 2012?

***Here's some "need to know" tips for choosing that new computer, be it a Notebook (Laptop) or Desktop computer.***

Some of this information courtesy of *Windows Secrets*

### **The new normal: 4GB of RAM and 500GB hard drives**

The average PC sold today, desktop or notebook, has a 500GB hard drive, 4GB or more of RAM, and a blazing graphic processor — and costs less than the horse-and-buggy systems of the pre-Windows XP days. The escalating demand for hard-disk space and processing power is driven by the powerful software we now use and by ever-larger data files — especially digital images and video.

### **Windows 7 32-bit or 64-bit?**

In addition to what version of Windows 7 to go for, (Home Premium or Professional) you will now have to decide whether to go with the 32-bit version or the 64-bit version.

### **Using 32-bit software: apps, yes; hardware, no**

The first rule of using 32-bit code on Win7 x64 is that hardware drivers won't run. You must use 64-bit hardware drivers for all internal and external devices. Fortunately, the same is **not** true for applications. Just about any 32-bit Windows app that runs on XP will run without a snag on a 64-bit Windows system.

### **Future-proofing: 64-bit provides power to spare**

As Microsoft points out, a computer with a 64-bit version of Windows can use more memory — 4 GB (gigabytes) or more — than a PC with a 32-bit version of Windows, which is limited to about 3.5GB or less. (Even if a PC comes with 4GB or more of memory installed, a 32-bit version of Windows can use only about 3.5GB of that memory.)

There are some limitations to the amount of RAM that a particular version of Win7 x64 can support. For example, Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise, and Ultimate can address up to 192GB of RAM; Home Premium, by far the most common version installed today, supports 16GB; however, Windows 7 Home basic is limited to **just** 8GB. That's still an impressive — and usually excessive — amount of RAM for most personal computing use.

### **Better security with a 64-bit operating system**

Even the most passionate Windows XP user has to admit that it was a malware nightmare; we survived years of what seemed like endless rounds of patches. Antivirus protection is better in all versions of Windows 7, but even more so in 64-bit versions. While we still get security fixes for the 64-bit operating systems, these fixes are far fewer than on 32-bit systems.

There's a significant reason a 64-bit OS is more secure: malware written as 32-bit software will usually not run on an x64 system. For example, it would be difficult for a 32-bit virus or root kit to modify the 64-bit Win7 kernel.

### **Useful features to have**

A built in digital card reader is useful for directly reading the storage cards out of digital cameras, most popular is the SD card reader. An HDMI output can be used to connect your computer to your digital TV — this is useful if you stream or download movies to your computer, or access TV channel's "catch-up" services, such as the ABC's iView service. By using the HDMI port you can watch the programme on your big screen TV.

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*Blessed is the Man who is too busy to worry in the daytime and too sleepy to worry at night.*

### Wither Thou Goest...

If only there wasn't so much mud! It is everywhere. Men and animals plod through it, wagons make it deeper, the rain turns it into bogs.

Was I right to have come here? To have brought four children to this desolate place? It is so cold in winter. Sharp frosty nights – but the sunny days that follow are beautiful. At times a cold wind blows from the south for a week at a time, so cold as to keep us indoors.

Yet there is beauty here. Soft misty mornings when one can just discern the distant Mount Alexander; golden blossom glowing on the trees, and many colourful birds.

The children are happy here, because their father is here – John is happy.

"It's our chance" he said a year ago, "our chance to make enough for our own piece of land." What could I say? John works so hard. He would have grown old working on Mr. Ross's station and the little hut John built for us here is not much smaller than the one we had on the property. "There will be a town here one day" John says, "and farther out is land for farming."

It was hard work waiting when John first went away. But after six months he was back with a horse and dray, and money for supplies. We came here in the autumn to a part of the diggings well away from the main settlement near a small creek and waterholes. The barrels he used stand beside the hut holding water caught from our roof.

The beginnings of a town can be seen on the way to the Police Camp where the miners must go to get their licences. There, in tent shops and hastily built wooden sheds one can buy meat and flour and sugar; even vegetables if a wagon has come through from Melbourne. Going to the shops here is a far cry from "going to town" from the station. It's a long way to walk, and the wagons have churned the tracks into a quagmire. No best dress and bonnet in this weather. I shortened my skirts to keep them above the mud. No "glimpse of a nicely turned ankle" though. We all wear sturdy boots to keep our feet dry. The two-year-old tires quickly. John has made a sledge for her, and the bigger children are happy to pull it, along with the goods I have purchased.

The diggings are busy. There are men everywhere, on the whole, rough looking men. Yet they are courteous, and I'm told, kindly. Occasionally I see a man looking wistfully at the children – no doubt some of them have left families behind.

There are many women with children. We live so far apart we haven't met many. When the fine weather comes I shall go to the church service and get to know some of them. I have made acquaintance with Mrs. Bell who lives almost a mile away and we sometimes visit when the weather is fine. Her boys are older, and work with their father. Her daughter helps her with the goats. These goats supply many families with milk. Our children thrive on it, but I hope one day to have a cow. We could fence a block to contain a cow. At present I plan to fence a small plot to grow vegetables safe from the ever-present wandering stock. Even potatoes are sometimes hard to obtain, and very expensive.

John and his partner are working a claim some miles away, so he leaves very early and returns late, but I am too busy to be lonely. Busy! Every day is full. The children must be under my eye at all times lest they wander into danger. May, age seven, helps mind the little ones. John, age six, is inclined to wander and wants to help his father. James, four, would follow him anywhere, and two year old Emma, into everything. After I pulled her head first out of a half-filled water barrel one day, John made covers for them, but every water hole, every puddle, draws her as a magnet.

Every morning I teach the children their letters and numbers. Mary reads quite well and John is quick with his numbers. We write with charcoal on whatever comes to hand.

In the afternoons we take the sledge and collect stone. We are putting stone outside the hut door so we can have a space clear of mud, where the children can play. Perhaps John will put a shade over it as a verandah for the hot weather. The children bring home armfuls of small wood for the fire.

It is almost dusk. The children play happily indoors while I prepare the meal. John comes home and I serve the meal. As John bows his head to give the blessing I look at this, my family. Everything I hold dear is here, in this hut. Truly, home is where the heart is.

## REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 8141

We will begin the New Year on **Friday 3rd Feb at 1-30 pm** with the Saint-Saens' Requiem of 1878. The recording is one new to the group, recorded in France under the direction of Jean-Marc Cochereau in 1991. Members of the group are asked to bring any other recordings of the work they may have in case we want to play excerpts from different recordings after listening to this one.

The soloists on this recording, under the baton of Mercier include French tenor Jean-Luc Viala who, one commentator says, gives a heartbreaking performance, and the French dramatic soprano Francoise Pollet.

As the year goes on we will share a series of Requiem mostly new to the group including: Marcello and Lotti from the 1700s. The 'new Australian flavoured Kerry version of the Mozart'. The Liszt, Salieri, Bruckner, Rejcha and Schumann. A Russian Orthodox Requiem and a Gregorian Chant for mixed male and female voices. Shorter works from the 1500s by Brumel, de la Rue and Guerrero and some by modern composers such as Artyomov, Silestrov and Ryu.

I will survey those returning to the group to ensure we listen again, to some of the most well loved requiem we have shared in the past.

*All the intelligence and talent in the world can't make a singer. The voice is a wild thing. It can't be bred in captivity.*  
Willa Cathar

## SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

The first practice for 2012 will be at **3.30 pm on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup>** and will be at the Salvation Army Hall in Kennedy Street. (The red brick building at the front of the Railway station.)

We shall be learning some new 'Rounds', Vocal Exercises and songs, as well as brushing up some of our old favourites. We shall also be having another go at one or two songs that we have had a problem with in the past, and seeing if we can get the better of them.

So let's all look forward to another challenging and enjoyable year. New members are always needed and are very welcome.

## SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our first get-together for this year will be at the home of

Ann Lodge on Saturday **18<sup>th</sup> February, at 12.30 pm**

If you are new to this course, please ring Betty for directions to Ann's home.

## TABLE TENNIS

TREVOR WHEELER 5476 2286

Table tennis is on now. Everyone welcome. Bats available.

Wednesdays 10 to 12. Camp Reserve, Forest Street, Castlemaine. Donation \$1

Contact [trevorpots@gmail.com](mailto:trevorpots@gmail.com)

## Say Hello and Welcome to these new U3A members

|                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Michael Spacey     | Katherina Rapp     | Gail McCarthy       |
| Susan Spacey       | Jennifer Tracey    | Eve Banks           |
| Janice Lukins      | Maxeen Ord         | Libby Jones         |
| George Forster     | Caroline Watkins   | Deborah Coulthard   |
| Elizabeth Connelly | Elizabeth Waters   | Lorraine Kollmorgan |
| Thomas Connelly    | Nigel Harland      | Diane Semmens       |
| David Cunningham   | Gabrielle Noon     | Rodney Marchant     |
| Jean Cunningham    | Alfred Taylor      | Glynne Samson       |
| Harry Zable        | Kerin Brown        | Lois Barker         |
| Len Paul           | Marie Scott        | Rex Odgers          |
| Judi Appleby       | Helen Duckworth    | Susan Harrison      |
| Prue Denner        | Ron Green          | Elizabeth Beck      |
| Moira McClennan    | Diana Orinda Burns | Wilfred Savage      |
| Dawn Gilson        | Elizabeth Dorman   | Jo-anne Starr       |
| Sandra Sutherland  | Frances Knight     | Kerrie Patmore      |
| Phillip Sutherland | Helen Creed        | Jude Russell        |
| Maggie Edwards     | Lynette Groke      | Rosalie Young       |
| Spencer Watson     | Ruth Mathew        | Helen MacCallum     |
| Graeme Brook       | Michele Robinson   | Lyn Morey           |
| Michael McNeill    | Keith Neaves       |                     |

## Principles of U3A – a guide for newer Committee Members

Based on the philosophy of the UK founder of the U3A movement, Dr. Peter Laslett:

- . To provide affordable learning opportunities for older people, using the skills and abilities of the members themselves. **Those who learn shall teach and those who teach shall learn**, and there shall be no distinction between the two. There shall be no qualifications for membership. And no awards or diplomas shall be given.
- . The emphasis shall be on learning for the love of it, and shall include an emphasis on the value of making things and improving skills of all kinds.
- . Learning shall take place in a friendly, supportive, social environment.
- . Those joining a U3A shall pay for its upkeep.
- . There shall be no payment to any person (member or non-member) for teaching or providing a service to members except in the case of reimbursement for such expenses as travel, photocopying, etc.
- . The curriculum of a U3A shall be determined by the needs/preferences of members and according to the resources available to it.
- . To be at all times, non-political and non-sectarian in our approach.

## How the Internet Got Started

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent. To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth.

Did you solve all seven Christmas questions in the December "Third Thoughts"? Clever you if you got them all correct. Here's the answers: **No.1** 78 gifts. **No.2** "The Night Before Christmas". **No.3** Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, Blitzen, and Rudolph. **No.4** Donder means thunder and Blitzen means lightening. **No.5** Charles Dickens. **No.6** Jacob Morley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come. **No.7** Melchior (Old man with white hair and flowing white beard), Caspar (Young and beardless, a youth? depicted black from the 14<sup>th</sup> century) and Balthazzar (Man in his prime with dark hair and short dark beard).